

Weekly National Intelligencer.

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Weekly National Intelligencer.

By GALE & SEATON.

JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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OUR WESTERN NAVY.

We recorded a few days ago the fact that DAVID D. PORTER, commanding the naval forces of the United States on the waters of the Mississippi, had been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral, in recognition of his valuable and efficient services in conducting our naval operations in that part of the country.

It has been generally remarked that, in the recent speeches delivered by our civil and military authorities in Washington, in reply to the congratulatory visit paid to them by a portion of the people of this city, no reference was made by any speaker, in the felicitations expressed on the fall of Vicksburg, to the part which the navy had taken in bringing about this great military and political event. The omission was evidently accidental, but it has none the less served, by its singularity, to create general remark, and thus to demonstrate, in the most striking way, the popular sense of the obligations believed to be due to this favorite arm of the public service, in view of the multifarious and successful operations which it has prosecuted in the present war, sometimes on an independent footing, and sometimes in conjunction with the army, which, on so many signal occasions, it has saved from impending disaster, if not destruction. What the navy has done by its unaided efforts may be read to advantage in the capture of New Orleans. What it has done in concert with the army may be seen in such events as the timely interposition of the gunboats to shelter the defeated forces of Gen. Grant at the close of the first day of the battle of Shiloh, or in the success and protection afforded to the army of Gen. McClellan after its repulse from before Richmond to the banks of the James. The communications of all our forces operating on the Mississippi, or on other lines of advance, owe their security, we need not say, to the efficiency of the navy, without whose aid it would have been greatly more difficult, if not wholly impracticable, to penetrate a country so extensive and so difficult of travel by large armies on overland routes.

The proportions already assumed by our Navy in the West, and which are destined to remain unimpaired as long as it shall be necessary to guard and control the Mississippi river, deserve to be considered in other than their mere military aspects. The part already performed by the navy in opening this "great inland sea," and the part it must perform in keeping it unobstructed, may be said to insure for this branch of the national defence the sympathy and support of a population who have heretofore felt that the navy was created and sustained for the protection of the mercantile and commercial classes, mainly resident in the seaboard States, rather than of the agricultural community inhabiting the Mississippi valley. This feeling can no longer have any place under the existing relations of the country. The considerations of political economy which must give importance to the operations of our fleets on the Mississippi river so long as this war endures, will appear from the following statements made by Attorney General BATES, in a public address delivered in Missouri on the Fourth of July, on the occasion of the launching of the gunboat Winnebago from the Iron Works of Mr. J. B. Eads at Carondelet. Mr. BATES said:

"I have conversed not only with statesmen, but with some of the ablest and best of our naval commanders, with reference to the building and fitting of gunboats for the Mississippi river. The idea of a gunboat on the waters of the Mississippi was a novelty; some ridiculed it; but some few of the naval officers sincerely believed in the possibility of the thing, and saw in it, as clearly as sunlight could have revealed the fact, an all-powerful, all-conquering instrument for crushing the rebellion and for the support of the institutions of our forefathers.

"This yard, established for building gunboats, was an experiment, hazardous alike to the treasury of the nation and to the reputation for skill and knowledge of the excellent and able man involved in it, was taken first of all by my friend, James B. Eads, under a contract with Government to build seven steamers, and under the command of that noble and glorious man, whom I might well be proud to call my friend, but who has left us, and is gone to receive the rich reward that awaited him—who has entered into blessed communion with the spirits of the just made perfect. Admiral Foote is dead, but he still lives in the hearts of his countrymen. He, who possessed in his own person more of the excellence of human nature than I remember ever to have seen in any one man; beloved by all his subordinates, from the first officer down to the lowest sailor, beloved and mourned by all outsiders, and feared only by the enemies of his country. Under his command it was that the efficiency and power of these instruments of war, turned out some from this yard and some from others, turned the tide of battle in this whole war.

"What would have been your condition upon the Ohio but for the gunboats of the Mississippi? What would have been Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Columbus? Without them our army would have been inefficient, and the enemy this day would have dominated over the whole course of the Mississippi, from the Ohio to the Gulf. But for the gunboats we should have had a hard struggle, lasting perhaps for years, before we could have gained the ground we now occupy in that direction, because the lower Mississippi is but the channel towards which the waters above the dividing line of the Ohio will force their way to the ocean as freely as the muddy waters of the Mississippi force their way into the Gulf. Observe a few facts connected with it: If you draw a line east and west through the mouth of the Ohio river, there are nine millions of free white people who drink the waters above that line; below that line, in the valley of the Mississippi proper, there are not one million of free white people. I make an assertion which I shall not stop to prove now, but the published statistics of Cincinnati will prove it, that any day of the year there are three times as much of American property afloat upon the Mississippi as upon the whole Atlantic ocean. I mention this to show you, the workmen of this yard especially, how gloriously, how admirably, and efficiently your labor redounds to the restoration and preservation of law and order in your country."

The Montreal Advertiser, after announcing Mr. Vallanigham's arrival at Halifax, states that he will soon go to Niagara Falls, where he will remain for the present, taking care to keep on the Canada side.

MILITARY REPRISALS.

We yesterday spread before our readers the papers and correspondence explanatory of the objects proposed to himself by Gen. Jefferson Davis in authorizing Mr. Alexander H. Stephens to proceed to this city. The projected mission had for its ostensible purpose the opening of negotiations on three points.

Firstly, to "establish the cartel for the exchange of prisoners on such a basis as to avoid the constant difficulties and complaints which arise," and to prevent for the future what Gen. Davis alleges to be the "unfair conduct" of the Federal authorities "in evading the delivery of the prisoners who fall into their hands, in retarding it by sending them on circuitous routes, and by detaining them, sometimes for months, in camps and in prisons, and in persisting in taking captive non-combatants."

Secondly, to protest against the "unheard of conduct of the Federal officers in driving from their homes entire communities of women and children, as well as of men, whom they find in districts occupied by their troops, for no other reason than because the unfortunate are faithful to the allegiance due to their State and refuse to take an oath of fidelity to their enemies."

Thirdly, to threaten retaliatory measures because of the alleged "putting to death of unarmed prisoners" and because of "the recent executions of officers of the Confederate army in Kentucky, for the sole cause that they were engaged in recruiting service in a State which is claimed as still one of the United States, but is also claimed as one of the Confederate States."

The first of these grounds of complaint, if there be any, have been, we presume, sufficiently removed by the recent supplementary arrangements made to regulate the exchange of prisoners of war. In regard to the second ground of complaint—the banishment of "entire communities of women and children from their homes"—which Gen. Davis calls "the unheard of conduct of the Federal officers" in some cases, we have only to say that if any such rigorous and cruel measures have been executed with the generality he ascribes to them we are not apprized of the fact. If, however, Gen. Davis has not before heard of any such barbarities in the progress of war among civilized nations, it may be because he has not given due attention to the official papers of his own military subordinates. We quote with him in his deprecating such visitations of military severity on the heads of unarmed women, children, and old men; for we are far from holding that that military regimen which is the most violent and relentless in its processes is therefore the most effective. As soon as rigor transcends the bounds of military justice, it becomes, by the recoil it produces, an element of weakness rather than strength.

But we have to regret that Gen. Jefferson Davis should be so late in announcing the humane maxims by which he hopes to see the present war conducted. When the devoted Union men of East Tennessee were hunted down by his soldiers, and for acts of partisan warfare, were ordered to be remorselessly hanged by his Secretary of War, while innocent women and children, for no other crime than that of having husbands or fathers in exile from the State for opinion's sake, were ordered to abandon their homes, we heard nothing from him in denunciation of such "barbarity."

In an official letter to the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, then the Confederate Secretary of War, Col. W. B. Wood, commanding a Confederate regiment in East Tennessee, under date of November 20, 1861, complained that the "Union men" in that quarter had recently "destroyed no less than five railroad bridges," and that "the whole country was in a state of rebellion" against the Richmond Government. He added that he had felt it his duty to place Knoxville under martial law because "there was a large majority of the people sympathizing with the enemy and communicating with them."

In a second official letter, under date of November 20, 1861, he wrote that "the rebellion in East Tennessee had been put down in some of the counties," and that a large number of "Union men" had been taken prisoners. He then proceeded to ask what disposition should be made of them, and gave his own views on the subject as follows:

"I have been here at this station for three months, half the time in command of this post, and I had a good opportunity of learning the feeling prevailing in this country. It is hostile to the Confederate Government. They will take the oath of allegiance with no intention to observe it. They are the followers and slaves of Johnson and Maynard, and never intend to be otherwise. When arrested they suddenly become very submissive, and declare they are for peace and not supporters of the Lincoln Government, but yet claim to be Union men. At one time, while our forces were at Knoxville, they gave out that a great change had taken place in East Tennessee, and that the people were becoming loyal. At the withdrawal of the army from here to the Gap, and the first intimation of the approach of the Lincoln army, they were in arms, and scarcely a man but was ready to join it and make war upon us. The prisoners we took tell us that they had every assurance that the enemy was already in the State, and would join them in a few days. I have requested at least that the prisoners I have taken be held, if not as traitors, as prisoners of war. To release them is ruinous. But if they are kept in prison for six months it will have a good effect. The bridge-burners and spies ought to be tried at once."

It was in reply to this writer that the Hon. Judah P. Benjamin, then Mr. Davis's Secretary of War, wrote as follows:

"WAR DEPARTMENT, Richmond, Nov. 25, 1861.

"SIR: Your report of the 20th instant is received, and I now proceed to give you the desired instructions in relation to the prisoners taken by you among the traitors of East Tennessee."

"First. All such as can be identified in having been engaged in bridge burning are to be tried summarily by drum-head court-martial, and, if found guilty, executed on the spot by hanging. It would be well to leave their bodies hanging in the vicinity of the burnt bridges."

"Second. All such as have not been so engaged are to be treated as prisoners of war, and sent with an armed guard to Tusculum, Alabama, there to be kept imprisoned at the depot selected by the Government for prisoners of war."

"Whenever you can discover that arms are concentrated by these traitors, you will send out detachments, search for and seize the arms. In no case is one of the men known to have been up in arms against the Government to be released on any pledge or oath of allegiance. The law for such measures is past. They are to be held as prisoners of war, and held in jail till the end of the war. Such as come in voluntarily, take the oath of allegiance, and surrender their arms, are alone to be treated with leniency."

"Your vigilant execution of these orders is earnestly urged by the Government."

"Your obedient servant,
J. P. BENJAMIN, Sec'y of War."

"Col. W. B. WOOD, Knoxville, Tennessee."

"P. S.—Judge Patterson, Col. Pickens, and other ring-

leaders of the same class, must be sent at once to Tusculum to jail as prisoners of war."

Nor was any leniency shown in East Tennessee to the women and children of such Union men as had fled the State. In a proclamation addressed "to the disaffected people of East Tennessee" by Col. W. M. Churchill, Provost Marshal at Knoxville, it is ordered, under date of April 23, 1862, that all refugees who fail to return to their homes and accept the amnesty offered on condition of "laying down their arms and acting as loyal citizens," shall "have their wives and children sent to their care in Kentucky, or beyond the Confederate State lines, at their own expense." It is added that the families of all males who shall leave after the date of this proclamation "will be sent immediately after them. The women and children must be taken care of by husbands and fathers, either in East Tennessee or in the Lincoln Government." Such were the "tender mercies" of the Confederate military authorities, and such their respect for the right of domicile of inoffensive women and children who had husbands or fathers in exile for their loyalty to the National Government.

In the face of such an exhibition we submit that Gen. Davis should make some public recantation of his past policy before he proceeds to arraign the Federal authorities on the charge of "inhumanity." For the credit of the nation it is to be hoped that neither party to this contest will permit it to degenerate into "a violent and remorseless revolutionary struggle."

In regard to the third of Gen. Davis's complaints, we are not sufficiently apprized of the facts involved to express any opinion. If unarmed prisoners have been put to death by our military authorities we are not aware of the time or place where such transactions have occurred. The circumstances attending the execution of Confederate officers for the alleged offence of recruiting in Kentucky are not known to us, but we are free to say that if this was the only offence alleged and proved against them, we should regard their execution as a deplorable military error. That Gen. Burnside, under whose administration these executions are said to have occurred, would willingly commit a military crime, will be believed by none who know him. We believe it will be found that other charges were alleged and substantiated against these officers. It is well known to us that our military authorities have not heretofore held the offence of "recruiting" for the insurgent service in Loyal States to be punishable with death. We recall the case of Capt. Wm. Clark, of the Thirty-seventh Virginia Regiment, who, with a number of Maryland "recruits," was arrested in the month of August last by a squad of United States cavalry in St. Mary's county. The whole party were lodged in the Old Capitol as prisoners of war, but Capt. Clark was not executed, or even put on trial, so far as we ever heard.

But whatever may be the errors, or even the occasional excesses, committed by imprudent or reckless officers on one side or the other, we shall hope that neither party to this war will deem it necessary to proceed to the dread extremity of invoking the *lex talionis*, whose cruel blows fall on the heads not of the guilty but the innocent. If this fountain of blood be once unsealed, who can foresee the nameless horrors to which it may lead?

THE GOLD PRODUCT OF THE WORLD.

In the July number of the Bankers' Magazine it is stated that from reliable data it appears that the production of gold and silver throughout the world has quadrupled since the first discovery of gold in California, (1848-'9.) The production annually, in the years 1846-1848, was estimated at sixty-one millions of dollars, of which Russia and Mexico were the principal sources. The product for the current year is estimated at over two hundred and seventy millions.

A careful scrutiny of the whole subject, as to sources of this supply, serves to show that North and South America produce about \$96,350,000 in gold and \$47,650,000 in silver; a total of \$144,000,000. Australia, Russia, and other portions of the world produce annually \$108,230,000 in gold, and \$10,345,000 in silver; a total of \$118,575,000. The annual average of the "gold crop" of California is set down at \$60,000,000.

The effect of this accumulation of gold is thus stated by the reviewer:

The vast accumulations of gold of the last fourteen years have largely to the benefit of the United States and Great Britain, by giving an impulse to commerce and to manufactures. Remote nations are indirectly benefited, because the course of trade is such that gold will flow to those countries where labor is cheapest, and where the bullion and coin are the most valued, or realize the largest results. This is fully demonstrated in the fact that notwithstanding the additional accumulations of the precious metals within the last fourteen years, amounting to over one thousand millions of dollars, there is really but little more on hand in the United States and Western Europe than in 1850-1853. In the year 1851 the Bank of France held four hundred and eighty-six millions of francs in silver and eighty-two millions in gold; whereas now, after a period of twelve years, it holds three hundred and ninety-four millions in both metals. In the year 1852 the Bank of England held £22,000,000 in bullion and coin, which was, in fact, for the country at large—the joint-stock banks, country banks, and private bankers maintaining but small specie reserves. This year the silver and gold of the Bank of England ranged from 14 to 24 millions sterling, and the Scotch and Irish banks £4,370,000, from which we deduce the following comparative table:

| | Year 1851. | Year 1863. |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bank of England, 1852..... | \$110,000,000 | \$75,000,000 |
| Bank of France, 1852..... | 113,000,000 | 80,000,000 |
| Banks in United States, 1852.. | 84,000,000 | 118,000,000 |
| Totals..... | \$307,000,000 | \$273,000,000 |

LEGAL DECISION ON THE CONSCRIPT LAW.

At New York, on Tuesday afternoon, Judge McCuan decided the case of William L. Stephens, an enrolling officer, who arrested Henry Biesel for refusing to give his name when asked, and locked him up in the Park Barracks. The Judge held that the arrest was without due process of law, as it was no offence to refuse to give a name to the enrolling officers under the act of Congress. Besides this, the United States Constitution provides only for the standing army and navy, and the militia forces of the States, and as the conscription law does not make the force it creates a part either of the standing army or the militia force, it is unconstitutional, since the President is clearly limited to the employment of a standing army and the militia and volunteer forces of the respective States mustered into the United States service. Stephens was held to bail in five thousand dollars for the arrest of Biesel.—N. Y. Sun.

GEN. BANKS.

It was not definitely known when the reduction of Fort Hudson was first announced whether that great event, second in importance only to the fall of Vicksburg, was accomplished by the aid of co-operative forces from the army of Gen. Grant, or whether it was effected by Gen. Banks' army alone. It is now known that the latter was the case, and the success therefore reflects only the more honor on a General who, throughout the whole war, has been characterized by a modesty equal to his capacity, and who at all times and under all circumstances has manifested an absence of self-seeking in his simple devotion to duty. The Boston Daily Advertiser comments very justly as follows on this signal achievement:

"No achievement of the war is more deserving of honor, as a witness for the efficiency and superiority of the army which is now inseparably connected with the name of Gen. Banks. The tenacious perseverance with which he has applied himself to his object, undaunted by the hardships and losses of a summer campaign in that latitude, by the difficulties of bearing an elaborately fortified and naturally strong position, will be admired by all who read the history of the siege; and especially will it be held in grateful remembrance by those who consider the painful anxiety which has been felt by the public for many weeks as to the final issue of the enterprise."

"This most honorable achievement will place Gen. Banks in a position far superior to the disparagement and the sometimes open attacks of which he has been the object. The prejudices and jealousies connected with the wisdom of his appointment. We may be permitted to add that we trust it will nowhere be forgotten that the General who has thus effected that which is the complement of Grant's work, is a Massachusetts General—and that the brave man who under his command endured such toils and privations, and carried out such obstacles and conquered in that deadly trial of strength and patience, to which Vicksburg gives us our only parallel, were chiefly made up of men from the seaboard States—the brothers of the victors of Gettysburg—among whom New England counts many thousands of her sons."

REBEL DISASTERS ACKNOWLEDGED.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 14th instant, in an editorial, says:

"The fall of Vicksburg, the retreat of Bragg, the repulse of Lee, and the advance on Charleston are all serious disasters to the rebel cause, and have attended our arms since the commencement of the war."

"The defeat of Johnston by Sherman had not been heard of at that time. The attack on Charleston, it will be observed, is regarded as a disaster in advance."

Referring to the defeat of Gen. Lee, the Richmond Whig of the 9th instant says:

"The intelligence from Gen. Lee falls short of the promise of the despatches published yesterday, and will prove a grievous disappointment to the high-spirited people of the public. Superadded to the calamity at Vicksburg, it casts a sombre shadow over our affairs; but we must constantly bear in mind that it is in adversity that true greatness is revealed in its noblest attributes; and that, whatever that, come what may, the cause shall never go down, nor lack courageous hearts or stout arms enough to bear it on to a glorious triumph."

The Whig of the same date has several articles on the fall of Vicksburg, from which we make the following extract:

"What is most to be feared as the immediate result of the fall of Vicksburg is the conversion of the great army under Grant from a stationary into a moving force. From the organization almost it has been confined to the work of taking that city. It is now free to operate elsewhere. This is the evil against which the Government is now called to make the most energetic preparation. It is not difficult to imagine in what direction Grant will move, nor the probability of his effecting the capture of any considerable portion of the rebel army. We can only pray that those to whom the management of affairs is entrusted may be equal to the crisis."

THE DRAFT NOT COUNTERMANDED.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Provost Marshal General's Office, Washington, July 17, 1863.

The operations of the draft lately ordered in the New England and Middle States, though, in most instances, completed or now in progress without opposition, have in one or two cities been temporarily interrupted.

Provost Marshals are informed that no orders have been issued countermanning the draft. Adequate force has been ordered by the Government to the points where the proceedings have been interrupted.

Provost Marshals will be sustained by the military forces of the country in enforcing the draft, in accordance with the laws of the United States, and will proceed to execute the orders heretofore given for draft, as rapidly as shall be practicable, by aid of the military forces ordered to co-operate with and protect them.

JAMES B. FRY, Provost Marshal General.

THE ADVANCE OF GEN. ROSECRANS.

The capture of Chattanooga by Gen. Rosecrans is a matter which has attracted very little attention, yet it is almost as important an announcement as the surrender of Vicksburg. The latter gave us the Mississippi, but Chattanooga is the key to the whole internal railway system of the South. East Tennessee now becomes ours as a matter of course, and the mountain region which splits the State like a wedge passes naturally into our control. Chattanooga, in its way, means as much as Vicksburg.—World.

The rebel newspapers in Richmond seem to be just awakening to a realizing sense of the danger which threatens them in Alabama by Rosecrans' advance. They have been deluded time and again with the notion that Bragg was gathering all his forces to annihilate Rosecrans, while secretly his army was diminished to help Johnston and Lee. No accurate advance towards Chattanooga has, however, opened the eyes of the Richmond journalists to the real significance of Bragg's movements, and instead of an advance, they see him in full flight before Rosecrans, his army dropping off rapidly as he fights. The Richmond Whig deplores grievously this backward movement. At a time when Middle Tennessee is ready to yield its crops to the rebel gatherers, and it fears greatly that Rosecrans will be induced to penetrate into Alabama, which it admits would be a serious offset to Lee's success in the North—his present position does not promise much in that way—the advance of Rosecrans into Alabama seems to be a fixed fact. He has already driven Bragg entirely out of Tennessee, and will not doubt keep him on the move by following him up. The necessity of the rebels dividing their forces on the approach of the various Union armies has not only betrayed their weakness, but it has exposed their whole territory to invasion, besides yielding important positions which they had successfully held for two years.—Lodger.

DEATH OF MACREARY, THE TRAGEDIAN.

The telegraphic news by the Africa announces in a single line the death of William Charles Maccreary, the eminent English tragedian. No particulars are given of the time or place of his death. He was born in London in 1793. His first theatrical engagement was at the Birmingham Theatre in June, 1810, where he played *Romeo*. His first appearance in London was at Covent Garden in September, 1816, when he played *Orestes* in Philip's tragedy of "The Distressed Mother." In 1850-'51 he performed a series of farewell engagements in England, and on the 26th of February, 1851, took his final leave of the stage at Drury Lane. He has since lived in retirement down to the period of his death, at the advanced age of seventy years.

THE ATTACK ON CHARLESTON.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

The following despatch from Gen. Gilmore was received at the Headquarters of the Army yesterday:

Headquarters Department of the South, In the Field, Morris Island, S. C. July 12th, 1863.

Major Gen. H. W. HALLOCK, General-in-Chief.

SIR: I have the honor to report that at five o'clock on the morning of the 10th instant I made an attack upon the enemy's fortified position on the south end of Morris Island, and, after an engagement of three hours and a quarter, captured all his strongholds upon that part of the island, and pushed forward my infantry to within six hundred yards of Fort Wagner.

We now hold all the island except about one mile on the north end, which includes Fort Wagner and a battery on Cummings' Point, mounting at the present time fourteen or fifteen heavy guns in the aggregate.

The assaulting column was gallantly led by Brig. Gen. Strong. It landed in small boats under cover of my batteries on Folly Island and four monitors led by Rear Admiral Dahlgren, which entered the main channel abreast of Morris Island soon after our batteries opened. The monitors continued their fire during the day mostly on Fort Wagner.

On the morning of the 11th instant, at daybreak, an effort was made to carry Fort Wagner by assault. The parapet was gained, but the supports recoiled under the fire to which they were exposed and could not be got up. Our loss in both killed and wounded was not very much from one hundred and fifty in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

We have taken eleven pieces of heavy ordnance and a large quantity of camp equipment.

The enemy's loss in killed, wounded, and missing was not fall short of two hundred.

Q. A. GILMORE, Brig. Gen. Commanding.

THE SIEGE OF JACKSON, (MISS.)

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The last Richmond papers received contain the annexed telegraphic despatches from Jackson, Mississippi. They contain the latest news of the operations of our army against that place:

JACKSON, July 10.—Gen. Johnston has this morning issued the following battle order to his troops, which was read along the whole line amid deafening shouts from our soldiers:

HEADQUARTERS ON THE FIELD, July 9.

Fellow-Soldiers: An insolent foe, flushed with hope from his success at Vicksburg, confronts you, threatening the people whose homes and liberties you are here to defend with slaughter and conquest. He may even now be heard at intervals as you advance. This enemy is at once the mission and duty of you brave men to chastise and expel from the bosom of Mississippi. General Sherman counts on you while defending your firesides and household gods, to emulate the proud example of your brothers in the East! The country expects in this great crisis of its destiny that every man will do his duty.

JACKSON, July 10.—The ball has opened; the fight has commenced by skirmishing heavily on Clinton road, with musketry and artillery. The enemy's shells are beginning to fall thick on the northern part of the city; several persons have been killed and wounded. Gen. Johnston orders all his batteries to be ready to open fire on the enemy's position. The fight has begun; our batteries opened on them finely. The enemy are evidently in heavy force. Heavy infantry and artillery skirmishing is going on; the enemy is shelling the city, and have killed several soldiers and citizens. The enemy's shells are beginning to fall thick on the city. The fight has begun; our batteries opened on them finely. The enemy are evidently in heavy force. Heavy infantry and artillery skirmishing is going on; the enemy is shelling the city, and have killed several soldiers and citizens. The enemy's shells are beginning to fall thick on the city. The fight has begun; our batteries opened on them finely. 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